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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 13-24 December 2004
Executive Summary

Future Planning Calendar

(U//~~AIUO~~) 12 January 2005: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA in Washington, DC.

(U//~~AIUO~~) 31 December 2006: The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended.

Overview of IRR Activities--Last Two Weeks

(U//~~AIUO~~) CDC Briefs the HRP

(U//~~AIUO~~) On 16 December, Chief, CIA Declassification Center, and key professional staff, briefed the Historical Review Panel (HRP) on CDC's overall program. The update included an overview of CDC's Remote Archive Capture Program, a review of production in FY 2004, and plans for FY 2005. The briefing then addressed the CREST standalone system at the National Archives—where researchers can access 9 million pages of CDC redacted products. Panel members showed particular interest in the CREST system with respect to its ease of use and accessibility to researchers.

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- *Editor: The Historical Review Panel advises the DCI on issues related to the declassification and release of historical records, the Agency's history program, and the Agency's records management system. Dr. Robert Jervis of Columbia University chairs the panel, comprising seven distinguished historians and academicians the DCI appointed to serve three-year terms.*

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(U//~~AIUO~~) ERWG Hears About ISOO's Report to the President

(U//~~AIUO~~) The External Referral Working Group—a voluntary Interagency forum created in 1997 to coordinate 25-year declassification review efforts under EO 12958—convened its monthly meeting on 15 December 2004. The Information Security Oversight Office's Linda Ebben addressed 44 representatives from 26 federal organizations (including first-timers USCENTCOM and the US Department of Agriculture). She alerted members that ISOO's report to the President on the status of declassification in the government was issued on 30 November 2004. The

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report is posted on the Internet—www. archives.gov/isoo. The government must review an estimated 260 million pages of material by 31 December 2006—and, of that, 65 million pages (approximately 25%) will require referral to another agency. She added that ISOO will grant all requests for an extension to process 'special media.'

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(U//~~AIUO~~) FOIA Requests

(U//~~AIUO~~) CIA's Perspective on 'Conditions in Iraq'

(U//~~AIUO~~) Frequent requester, The National Security Archive, is asking for: 1) all documents "...from 1 July 2004 through 31 December 2004 regarding political, economic, or security conditions in Iraq" and, more specifically, 2) "...a cable on these issues sent during mid-to-late November 2004 by the CIA's Iraq station chief to CIA Headquarters" and 3) "...material concerned with briefings on conditions in Iraq prepared by Michael Kostiw, advisor to Director of Central Intelligence Porter Goss." The requester adds: "The existence and dissemination of relevant documents have been described in the news media."

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(U//~~AIUO~~) DCI Goss' Request to Modify the IG's Report

(U//~~AIUO~~) The National Security Archive is requesting: 1) "An October 27, 2004 memorandum sent from CIA Director Porter Goss to CIA Inspector General John Helgerson requesting [that] Mr. Helgerson modify a June 2004 CIA Inspector General report on the activities of September 11, 2001" and, 2) both "October 27, 2004 letters sent from CIA Director Porter Goss to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees informing them of his request to CIA Inspector General John Helgerson." The Archive asserts: "These documents are described as unclassified in the attached November 2, 2004 *New York Times* article."

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Editor: The article is titled "CIA Chief Seeks Change In Inspector's 9/11 Report." The referenced 800-page draft report is the result of nearly two years of work. The joint Congressional committee that looked into the 9/11 attacks asked in December 2002 that the Central Intelligence Agency's Inspector General determine "whether and to what extent personnel at all levels should be held accountable" for any mistakes that contributed to the failure to disrupt the attacks. As stated in the article, the DCI's appeal that the report be modified aims to avoid drawing such conclusions. The NYT *concludes: "The disclosure of the request from Mr. Goss represents the first indication of how he intends to approach the issue."*

(U//~~AIUO~~) Interest in Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress

(U//~~AIUO~~) A Canadian requester is asking for documents on Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC) between 1955 and 1963.

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(U//~~AIUO~~) CIA Declassification Center

(U//~~AIUO~~) Banned in Georgetown—*Guyana*

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(U//~~AIUO~~) From the Carter Library comes the following "Evening Report" on the "Guyana-North Korean Axis vs MacArthur," dated May 1979: "Despite being separated by half the globe, Guyana and North Korea seem intent upon developing close ties of friendship and cooperation. Reports indicate that the two countries signed a mutual defense treaty last year. The latest evidence that a 'special relationship' has developed is that North Korea succeeded in getting the GOG [Government of Guyana] to ban the showing of the film 'MacArthur' in Georgetown." (b)(3)

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(U//~~AIUO~~) The Future Is Hard To Predict

(U//~~AIUO~~) From the Carter Library, we find a memo from a National Security Council staffer to National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. It is dated 13 February 1979, and forwards papers prepared by State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) on Islam. Of particular interest is the paper's first conclusion, summarized by the staffer's statement: "Pan-Islam is not likely to become a significant international force. There are too many regional and cultural divisions within the Muslim world for united political action." Although the paper is correct in asserting that "modernization, westernization and secularization have often produced a backlash in the form of reassertion of Islamic values," the concern in 1979 was that this Islamic fundamentalism "often associated with xenophobia" might offer the Communists an opportunity to "exploit this sentiment."

- *Comment: Although the prevailing optic was still the Cold War competition with the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s, this memo appeared after the Shah fled Iran in January 1979, and two weeks before Khomeini returned in triumph from his Paris exile to Iran on 26 February. Khomeini's return and the establishment of an Islamic government in 1979, sparked the emergence of an Islamic fundamentalism that spread across the Muslim world —and is still a dominant trend in the Middle East and South Asia today.* (b)(3)

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(U//~~AIUO~~) Poetry—and a President's State of Mind

(U//~~AIUO~~) A document recording an interview with a member of CIA's Office of Current Intelligence offers an interesting recollection. On the day President Kennedy learned of the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba [no date given, but presumably circa mid-October 1962], he quoted the following verse to a group of newspapermen:

Bullfight critics ranked in rows
Crowd the enormous plaza full;
But only one is there who knows
And he's the man who fights the bull.

- *Comment: A quick Internet search failed to locate any newspaper articles reporting on the President's use of this verse. Presumably, its use was his way of responding to an inquiry about his state of mind. The poem, by bullfighter Domingo Ortega, was a favorite of the President according to his speechwriter, Ted Sorenson.* (b)(3)

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